

Two years later Daniel began a ten year commitment as an Associate Park and Recreation Specialist. As a Specialist, he worked as a liaison between Director of State Parks and the California State Parks Foundation, and other groups. Highlighting this period, Daniel served for two years as the Supervisor for the California Statewide Recreation Needs Analysis, and for six years as the Grants Administrator for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the California State Parks Bond Programs.

Feeling the need for a new challenge, Daniel moved on to become the District Superintendent for the Gaviota District in 1984. During his five year tenure at this position, he played an instrumental role in the acquisition and development of park lands and facilities, and the historic restoration at El Presidio de Santa Barbara. He also worked to minimize the impact of major oil production and transportation on state parklands, resources and visitors.

Currently, Daniel is the District Superintendent and Deputy Regional Director for Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Angeles District. As District Superintendent, Mr. Preece oversees thirty-five units of the California State Park System, including Red Rock Canyon, Malibu Creek and Leo Carrillo State Parks. During this period, which began in 1989, Daniel has helped to add over 20,000 acres to the Santa Monica and Los Angeles Mountains District, has opened numerous centers for public use, has developed nature preservation programs and has worked to better the relationship between State Parks and their neighbors. He has also sat on numerous boards and teams, including the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Daniel C. Preece. He has shown an unwavering commitment to the community and deserves our recognition and praise.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESTORING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SPEECH OF
HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 78, the Religious Freedom Constitutional Amendment. I reject this measure because it is intended to destroy the delicate balance of church-state relations in America. The so-called Religious Freedom Amendment is fraudulently labeled and it would obliterate the Founders' vision, expressed in the First Amendment, of a tolerant nation where religion can flourish in the absence of excessive government entanglement. There are few passages in the Constitution more central to the premises of this country's establishment than the 10 words that open the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion * * *". Americans already enjoy the liberty to worship freely and of not having to participate in religious activities in which they do not believe. And, they have the liberty not to have their taxes pay for religious instruction with

which they might disagree. These are the freedoms that would fall if the Istook amendment were passed. Clearly, a proposal to offer schools and governments a role in determining how Americans worship is dangerous and unnecessary. Perhaps, we should more appropriately label this the Religious Freedom Stripping Amendment!

The Istook amendment is dangerous, because it aims to create a new right to practice religion in public institutions and on government property. It would permit inherently coercive programs of group prayer in public schools and mandate use of public funds to support private religious schools and other religious programs. It would also allow government officials, including teachers and judges, to display religious symbols in classrooms, courtrooms or other public spaces and communicate their personal religious beliefs while on the job, say by reciting a prayer at the beginning of a public school class or legal proceeding. The religious right in this country and, specifically, the Christian Coalition argue passionately about the need for prayer in school as a way to unite the nation in the face of racism, yet nothing currently bars students from praying voluntarily in school so long as they do not interfere with classes or commandeer a captive audience of other students. Moreover, it is hard to think of anything more divisive than putting the Federal and state governments in a position to favor one religion over another, as the amendment would do by granting officials the right to display religious material and channel tax dollars to religious programs.

The amendment rests on the false premise that neither the Constitution nor current law adequately protects religious expression or permits religiously affiliated groups to play a role in delivering secular services with public funds. However, recent court decisions have reaffirmed the equal right of private citizens to erect religious symbols in public areas and to have access to public facilities for religious activities. Religion has not been shut out of the public square but is an active voice in American culture. Students already enjoy many opportunities for religious expression within the school environment, including the opportunity to pray and read the Bible privately, say grace at lunch, distribute religious materials to their friends and join voluntary religious clubs. Two documents outline students' rights to religious expression: Religion in the Public Schools: A Joint Statement of Current Law and the U.S. Department of Education's guidelines on religious expression. Under current law, organizations that are religiously affiliated, but not pervasively sectarian, can and do receive government grants for secular social programs as long as they do not advance religion or discriminate on the basis of religion.

In short, Mr. Speaker the Istook amendment is dangerous and unnecessary. I urge my colleagues to reject the needless Istook amendment and preserve real religious freedom.

IN HONOR OF LOIS BEAUBIAN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor and acknowledge my

friend Lois Beaubian for her distinguished career and her contributions to family and community. On June 26, 1998, Lois will retire as Principal of Saturn Street Elementary School in Los Angeles, culminating an illustrious career. I thank you, Mr. Speaker and esteemed colleagues, for joining me in commemorating this occasion.

Lois Beaubian—a longtime resident of Los Angeles—embarked on her path of lifetime achievement in 1954, graduating from Manual Arts High School. Following high school, Lois worked for Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, and received a scholarship through the firm to continue her education. While a full-time employee of Golden State, Lois studied education at California State University, Los Angeles.

After her graduation from Cal State, L.A. in 1965 with a bachelor of arts degree in Education, Lois began her career in education. Her first position was as a teacher at Wadsworth Avenue Elementary School. Through her experience as a teacher, Lois developed an interest in educating students with special needs. Lois continued her education while working as a teacher and earned a masters degree in Special Education from California Lutheran College in 1983.

Lois Beaubian taught at a number of Los Angeles schools, including Western Avenue Elementary, Marvin Elementary, and Crenshaw High School. In 1985, Lois took her expertise into school administration as an Administrative Assistant at Carver Junior High School. From 1986–88, Lois served over 55,000 Los Angeles Unified School District students as manager of the compensatory education program. In 1988, she assumed the position of Assistant Principal of Manchester Elementary. Lois Beaubian began her tenure as Principal of Saturn Street Elementary School in 1992. Throughout her career, Lois developed a reputation as a warm, caring, and effective teacher and administrator. As Principal of Saturn, she inaugurated a computer technology program that is a permanent tribute to her commitment to assuring the future success of her students.

Lois is active in a number of community and professional organizations. She has served as a career instructor for the Los Angeles Urban League, as President of Women Aware, as Grammateus of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and as a member of the NAACP. Lois also is an Elementary Consultant to the Children's Discovery Centers of America, a member of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles, and the Council of Black Administrators.

Lois and George Beaubian have been partners in life for 39 years and instilled in their children great self confidence and intellectual curiosity. Lois and George are now the proud grandparents of Britt, Jacqueline's son.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mrs. Lois Beaubian on her long-time commitment to the education of our children, her service to our community, and her dedication to her family. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and extending our best wishes to her and George for many years of good health and prosperity.